

POINT 3

THE TOC H MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2000



ROYAL VISIT TO BRIXWORTH

H.R.H. Prince Charles visited Brixworth Country Park early in September. His visit was to celebrate the completion of the Millennium Project 'Access for All', of which Toc H has been a partner.

The day was blessed with warm sunshine, and a special coach brought some of the Toc H members present among the crowd. The Prince spoke to many of the members, as well as disabled groups and the general public. Megan Graham (who with husband Harry have been the main initiators of this ambitious project), was stationed in the Visitors Centre where the Prince asked questions about the project and Toc H. He then signed a photograph of himself to be displayed in the Centre.

Later Harry Graham, in his dual role of Toc H Board member for the Brixworth project and Chairman of Northamptonshire County Council, had the honour of inviting the Prince to unveil a plaque commemorating his visit. Harry also proposed a vote of thanks.



*The Prince with Harry and Megan Graham
(photo courtesy of Bob Fielding)*

The day left many happy memories - a happy occasion for everyone.

There are many visible indications of Toc H's involvement in this imaginative project. One of these, just completed, is the Toc H Corner. Our photo (printed with kind permission of Bob Fielding - Photographer) shows the four plinths which display the Four Points of the Toc H Compass - To Think Fairly, To Love Widely, To Build Bravely and To Witness Humbly. The Movement can be proud of the commitment of those who have brought this about.



The Toc H Corner

CENTRAL COUNCIL TO DEBATE MAJOR PLANS

The annual meeting of the Toc H Central Council takes place in November at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.

As well as the usual matters, such as the annual report to the trustees, accounts, and election of the CEC, the major item will be the presentation, for approval, of the new 'Business Plan' for Toc H produced by the Director. This plan will profoundly affect the future of the Movement so members are warmly encouraged to contact their Central Councillors to find out what it contains, and to give their views. On page 2 we print extracts from the Introduction to the plan to give a flavour of the sort of proposals before Council.

Toc H

Toc H is about people. Founded in 1915, Toc H works to break down barriers between people by challenging their prejudices about others and the divisions which exist in society. Its work is based on Christian principles, and people of all faiths, and of none, are welcomed.

Toc H works with people from all walks of life, tackling social problems, such as loneliness and deprivation, through an approach which emphasises self-help, and encourages people to accept responsibility for themselves and their local community.

Toc H uses the model of the compass to offer four personal challenges which are the inspiration for its members.

These 'Four Points of the Compass' are set out on page 2.

Our Vision is of a Movement
'Building better communities by reaching out to all in friendship and service, confronting prejudice, and practising Christian values'.

Toc H is a registered charity No 211042.

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24 Grove Avenue

Postscript to QM100
The Course of Time

The Introduction to the Proposed BUSINESS PLAN FOR TOC H

Following a decade of decline, Toc H is seeking to discover new opportunities in a new century. Toc H is first and foremost an ethical community of people committed to making a positive difference to society. Toc H has worked for 85 years and the work continues today to transform the divisions of a troubled world, to discover peace in the midst of war, light in darkness and rest where there is unrest.

The abiding themes of Toc H are fellowship and service. At the start of a new century through its membership, either as individuals or in branches, through its projects and its residential communities, Toc H continues to invite people into fellowship and to offer service wherever and in whatever ways seem appropriate.

This business plan by its very name is a demonstration of the fact that Toc H means business, as much today as ever it has. The business plan addresses four key issues in some detail.

It proposes a new form of governance, simpler, more democratic, closer to the membership, and more economic. A board of management with Toc H governed by the Royal Charter and acting as a trustee body for the movement as a whole, with three Regional Councils based loosely on the old Divisions set up as charitable companies limited by guarantee. Each company will have a staff member as its professional adviser.

MERCHANDISE AT CENTRAL COUNCIL

The publications stall at Central Council this year will be very much smaller, with much less stock.

To ensure you get what you want, please make sure you get your orders in to Central Services before Council - for collection during the weekend.

The plan seeks to develop aspects of Toc H work that is well established. Families under Pressure, Friendship Circles, and the volunteer programme, and a new programme of community leadership training. These project areas will be further developed with a staff member tasked to move things forward with targets agreed with the Director and Regional Chairman.

Toc H has always had to do with houses and hospitality. It started in a house, Talbot House in Poperinge, where on occasions over 3,000 cups of tea were served in a day. People were encouraged in the Marks to discover a community of fellowship and to offer service. Many people were caught up in this fellowship and continue to serve Toc H well in positions of influence both within and outwith the movement.

The business plan proposes a network of Community Houses, and a new meeting and conference facility at Wendover. With new investment in Toc H houses, activity centres and campsites we will build a strong network, which will include Alison House and Talbot House. These will be committed to reflecting in the 21st century the peace that people discovered 85 years ago and still experience today when they visit the Old House in Poperinge.

... cont on page 6

Staff News

FAREWELL, and good wishes to Terry Brown who left the staff at the end of August.

WELCOME to Stephen Cowling who has been appointed as a Long Term Volunteer. Stephen will spend two months researching whether there are ways in which Toc H can work with asylum seekers and refugees - and if his enquiries indicate there are, he will then stay on into next year to develop some of these.

Welcome to our New Members

John Weir - S.E. Region
Christine McKeon - Buckingham
Jeanne Day - Colwyn Bay
Janet Roynon - Halton
Eric Bramley - Mansfield Woodhouse
Roger Kingston, Juliette Vane - Netherfield
David Berquin - Tubby's Poperinge
Katie Young, Kimberley Young - Winsford

Guest Members

Sarah Cooper, Janet Picton - Mid East Region
Elizabeth Illing, Karen Jacques - N. Wales & N. West Region
Helena Dawson, Samantha Wade - Southern Region
Natalie Barnard, Johan Claus, Carl Delputte, Katherine Dobson, Heidi Edge, Rizwanah Hawton, Sarah Kingdon, John Langhorn, David McCabe, Tinakuman Mistry, Guillaume Platteau, Steve Smith, Ekta Sopal - S. East Region
Cecilia Blunt, Mavis Burton, Marilyn Evans, Nancy Larkham, Joyce Mitchell - S. West Region

The Four Points of the Compass are:

1. **Friendship** - 'To Love Widely' - to welcome all in friendship,
2. **Service** - 'To Build Bravely' - to give personal service.
3. **Fairmindedness** - 'To Think Fairly' - to listen always to the views of others and to find one's own convictions.
4. **The Kingdom of God** - 'To Witness Humbly' - to acknowledge the spiritual nature of man, to practice the Christian way of life, and to help the truth to prevail.

Point 3 is the magazine of Toc H. It takes its name from the 3rd Point of the Toc H Compass, 'Fairmindedness'. It seeks to inform, to encourage and to stimulate.

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Letters Editor: Ken Prideaux-Brune.

Next copy deadline: 16th November 2000.

A full copy of the current editorial policy is available on request from the Editor.

The opinions expressed are those of the individual concerned and not necessarily the views of the Editor or of Toc H.

While Point 3 is made available to all members free of charge, voluntary contributions are welcome.

The Editors reserve the right to cut or précis articles and letters submitted unless the writer specifically stipulates otherwise.

Printed on chlorine-free,
environmentally friendly paper.

Grove Avenue

On a corner of Grove Avenue and Oxford Road in Moseley, Birmingham sits a two-storey, five bedroomed, mock Tudor house. When the original Mark VI on Wake Green Road was sold, 24 Grove Avenue was bought to replace it, and to operate as a Toc H 'community house'. It is the last of its kind - all other Marks and Community Houses have long gone.

Dan Hodson, a resident until January this year, wrote this reflection on his time there.

Over the years 24 Grove Avenue has had many residents - some who stayed for only a few months - others for many years. One of these was a friend of mine. At the end of 1997 I was living in Selly Oak. My housemates had finished their degrees and were leaving Birmingham but I still had a year to go. She told me she was moving out of Grove Avenue, and I discovered that the residents there were expected to become involved and work together, both in the house and outside in the community. I became interested. I had lived in a number of shared houses but there had never been a real sense of community. So I moved in. At first there

was only one other resident, Kate, but soon there were more, and with Prak Jan and Judith we were full by Christmas.

Over the next year we worked and played together. We worked on projects, fixed things around the house and garden, threw parties and barbeques, but most of all we talked to each other and became a real community. At the end of 1998 Prak and Jan had moved out, but soon Charles and Roseanne moved in and, once again, we were full for Christmas.

Those who live there, however, are not the whole picture - the house really works because of a group of people of which the residents make up half. Without the kindness, generosity, expertise and time of the other half - local Toc H supporters - the house wouldn't be in the good state it is, both functionally and structurally.

We decided to run a local conservation project in May 1999. Part of our planning led Judith and me to attend a leadership weekend at Colsterdale. We met a lot of interesting people, and I came away inspired and enthusiastic. The project itself went well; we all enjoyed ourselves and the weather was good.

Towards the end of 1999 Kate moved out, which I found strange as she had been there since my first day. But only a month later Surinder moved in and once again we were full for Christmas. The New Year brought more change, as I left in January to travel round the world.

The house may be bricks and mortar, wood and nails, but 24 Grove Avenue is really built out of the mixture of people and personalities who both live there and support it. It may not always be the harmonious ideal but, in a world that sometimes seems to foster remoteness, it holds onto a sense of community that I have found nowhere else.

I was sad to go, knowing I left behind me something unique. I wish the House and its residents, both current and future, good luck as it and they continue their journey without me.

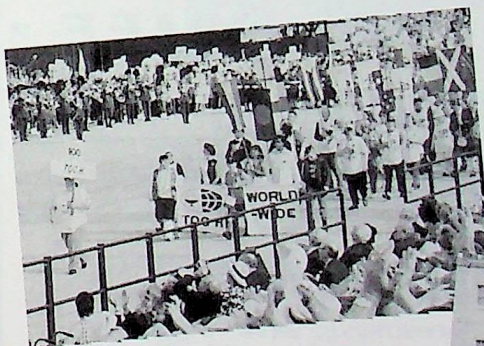


Residents during a working weekend at Allison House

QM100 - A POSTSCRIPT

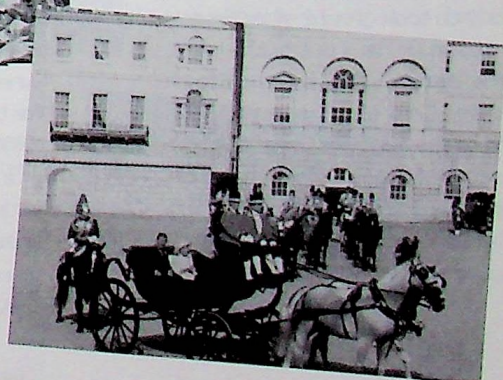
Since our last issue we have received two photographs taken from the spectator seats in Horse Guards, by Jack Turner. They show the Queen Mother arriving, with Prince Charles, and the Toc H contingent in the march-past.

On the day of Her Majesty's actual birthday, the 4th August, the Director sent a message of good wishes on behalf of all Toc H members in the U.K. He received a reply shortly afterwards to say how much it had been appreciated.



Toc H Contingent 'March Past'

The Queen Mother arriving at Horse Guards with Prince Charles



FAREWELL - and Well Done - to Enfield Women's Branch. The Branch has had a continuous record of fellowship and service since it was founded in 1928 when a visit by Allison McFie inspired Dorothy Singer to launch a group. Two of the founder members, Phyllis Coutts and Betty Winter, have been members throughout! The Branch has always maintained a good mixture - the early branch included teachers, bank clerks, shop assistants, dressmakers and hairdressers. The ages ranged from 18 to 50, and denominations covered C.of E., Presbyterian, Baptist, Wesleyan and Christian Scientist. Over the years the work has remained much the same - winter and summer parties for senior citizens, and people with disabilities, manning hospital tele-trolleys, visiting housebound people and carrying out small jobs. We are glad to hear from Dorothy Daniels, treasurer, that all seven members are transferring their membership to the London District.



Guests at the Wendover Open Day in Toc H week

55 Walk Through Time

On a sunny Saturday in September 55 people walked 'The Course of Time' in London. Members and friends, young and old enjoyed a day visiting 20 sites - each linked to a different Century.

They started at the Museum of London, which had been kind enough to help us set up the event and gave us a room for the day. They saw the 2nd C Roman Wall, the 3rd C Temple of Mithras, they visited Queenhithe Dock (where Alfred the Great landed in 886 to re-settle London) - and so on. A number also dropped in to All Hallows Church where members of London District offered welcome drinks.

About £2,500 was raised. Most for Toc H, but other charities helped were Age Concern and Ipswich Gateway Club. Kent Air Ambulance, and the Hospice of the Weald also benefited through the efforts of Dave Bellingham and his wife - who literally 'walked' the entire course apart from one short tube journey.

Janet Ritchie, (Bletchley) and her husband raised funds for the Branch and the local Methodist Church. Andrew and Valerie Mills (Mill Hill) and son Robert walked to raise funds for Toc H, but also brought along fifteen members of their church who walked just for the fun of it. Two regional chairmen also took part, both generously sponsored by their Regions - Jean Whiteman (S.East) who brought along ten friends, and John Dickson (W.Mids and S.Wales) who did the course with his son Robert. aged 10.



Amy (aged 10) and Hannah (aged 13) Burchell meet the Emperor Trajan at the Roman Wall at Tower Hill. Amy, Hannah and their mother Fiona walked to raise funds for the Toc H Rickmansworth Activity Centre

IN BRIEF • IN BRIEF • IN BRIEF

'The Southern Reporter' newspaper has given an honourable mention to **Selkirk Branch** for their local work in the community. They report that during a busy six weeks in the summer the branch took groups of local senior citizens on days out to the lochs, via the Yarrow Valley and the Ettrick Valley. They also took a group of men from the senior citizens men's club on a tour of the Borders, followed by tea and entertainment. On another occasion 50 people were taken on a coach trip to Boston Hall.

Parkhurst Ladies Branch recently held a 'Friendship Day' which raised over £300. This has been donated to the Khasdobir project.

Rushden Royal Ladies Branch - who are growing fast - have donated two wheelchairs to 'Serve' - a local charity for the elderly. The wheelchairs cost £400 each, and the money was raised at a coffee and gateaux evening - which actually raised £1000. The balance will go to Toc H. Sylvia Smith, the organiser of Serve, said how delighted they were with the gifts.

'They will go out and touch the lives of many people' she said.



Our picture (by kind permission of Northamptonshire Newspapers Ltd) shows Sylvia (centre) with branch chairman Anne Barfoot on her right, surrounded by branch members.

FAMILY FROLICS

Alyson, a volunteer on this project in August, reflects on a memorable week:-

Family Frolics was set in the peaceful village of Hutton-le-Hole in N.Yorks (or, at least, it was peaceful until 30 of us arrived for a week!). The aim was to provide a holiday for some families and to give the mums a rest when the children became demanding. During the week we visited Goathland by train, had a BBQ, and went to Flamingo land. It was so rewarding to see the children so happy and able to enjoy themselves away from home.



Alyson with some 'helpers'!

As time passed we got to know the children and to encourage them to develop their strengths. The mums also got closer as they learned more about each other and

friendships flourished. Those who were shy and withdrawn gained more confidence and the volunteers were chatting as if they had known each other for years.

While in the evening we laughed (and Bev did her washing) we were also touched as the mums discussed their home lives. It was sad to hear that the theft in the area was so bad that nothing was left out at night, or that families had inadequate housing and poor family relationships. While they laughed about it, I pondered. It made me realise how well off I was with my loving parents, my own bedroom and my safe neighbourhood. One thing which shone through was the love and closeness of many of the families - they were so keen to protect each other and make each other pleased. The perfect example being Karen's birthday, when her brothers were determined to give her an enjoyable day by preparing handmade crafts and surprises for her. I was amazed that despite the tough time at home the mothers all showed so much determination, and it was clear to me that for most of them their children came first. I was moved by the whole week and shall never forget the friendships, laughs and love which I received from everyone on the project.

S.E.REGION MEMBERS TAKE (F)LIGHT!

The S.E. Annual General Meeting saw, unusually, a crowd of over 80 members in the Ensign Centre. What was the attraction? The lunch? The chance to meet and hear our new Director? The other agenda items of the AGM? Possibly - but there is a suspicion that the attraction was the fact that tickets had been arranged for the 'London Eye'. Jean Whiteman, after a lot of hard work, obtained tickets for most of those present to 'fly the Eye', and it was hugely enjoyed



Our photo is of one pod, with some members in it, at the top of the Eye, looking South - 130 metres above London.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Max Wootton, of Toc H Ipswich, on his MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Max, who was 90 in April, received it in recognition of a lifetime of service to Barnardos. He first became involved in 1923, and is still on the Ipswich Committee! Max is also very committed to the United Nations Association, the United Reformed Church, local politics (he was a Liberal Councillor for three years) and Toc H, which he joined in 1926. He has held many offices, including a term as central councillor, and still attends Ipswich Men's branch.

and to the new Netherfield Group, near Battle in East Sussex, who are up and running due to the efforts and energy of Irene and Tommy Tucker. The picture shows some of the group, flanked by Regional Chairman Jean Whiteman and the Rev 'Polly' Perkins, at the presentation of their rushlight.



Summer Snapshots



Children from the East London Families project enjoying a holiday in Devon this summer, based at Lindridge House



Members of Avon District fundraising at Knowle, in Bristol. Daphne Dawes (who bought the gazebo which provided welcome shade) reports that it was a very successful, if tiring, day with good proceeds and a number of enquiries about Toc H.

Crewkerne Branch won first prize in the local carnival, with their Peter Pan float. (Photo by kind permission of the Western Gazette.)



LETTERS LETTERS

Stumbling Blocks and Stepping Stones

This heading to the article by the Director in the August issue reminded me of the verses by Christina Rossetti, which I often used in talks when on the staff.

Isn't it strange that Princes and Kings
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,
And ordinary folk like you and me
Are the builders of Eternity?

To each is given a set of tools
A shapeless mass and a book of rules,
And each must make ere his days are done -
A stumbling block - or a stepping stone.

George Lee
Leamington Spa

Our Oldest Member?

On August 30th eight members of Graeme (Derby) Branch piled into an MPV and drove to Sutton-on-Sea to visit our oldest member, Maggie Hill. Maggie is now 104, and lives in a residential home near her granddaughter, although she lived on her own in Derby until she was over 100. Central Services believe Maggie is the oldest Toc H member (unless any reader knows otherwise!)

We had a delightful chat with Maggie, whose amazing recall of earlier events in her life puts many of us younger ones to shame. She was a councillor, and SSAFA adviser, in Ashbourne for many years, and can recount her experiences in great detail. The photo shows the members who visited (apart from me) with Maggie.

We hope to see her again soon - and have made definite plans to attend her birthday party in Jan 2006, when she will be 110!

George Miller
Derby



Maggie Hill, believed to be Toc H's oldest member

TOC H AHEAD

For a number of years the Southern Region has organised 'Toc H'-based projects. Each year, for two or three separate weeks, Toc H hires a boat from the Bruce Trust. The boat has been specially designed to be suitable for people with disabilities. Volunteers crew the boat and each day visitors who would not otherwise be able to enjoy the water, come for a day's cruising. Our photo is of one of the days in the week run by the Chippenham, Newbury and Swindon District in July. Norah Bishop (Chair of the Swindon and Wroughton Branch) is seen (left) with guests from the Swindon Cancer and Carer's Support group. The venue is the Kennet and Avon Canal. The volunteer crew came from Oxford, London, Workington and Poperinge, and were led by Neville Timmins.



The Introduction to the Proposed BUSINESS PLAN FOR TOC H

... cont from page 2

Finally, the plan addresses the vexed question of money. The new regions will be cost centres. Central costs including development staff will be set against regional budgets. Toc H is a wealthy charity with a strong capital base and a turnover in excess of £1m. We will raise new money for projects. Wendover will generate a surplus. There will be a balanced budget by 2005. The new regions will each have their own business plan. Good financial discipline can balance the books of Toc H if the future of Toc H is your priority.

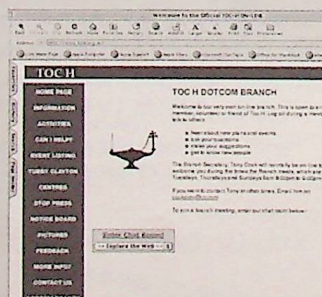
All of this and more will be achieved if we trust the future to the providence of God. It will demand discipline and commitment from staff and membership alike. This is not a time for faint hearts or pessimists. As the sign at Talbot House says 'To Pessimists - Way Out'.

Geoffrey Smith. 25th August 2000.
The Pool of Peace, Poperinge.

DOTCOM BRANCH

Our own 'on-line' branch is now operating - but we have reduced the meeting 'nights' to just two per week. The branch will now meet, between 8-00 p.m. and 9-00 p.m., every TUESDAY and SUNDAY.

It's very easy to join in. Just log on to the Toc H website (www.toch.org.uk), scroll down the menubar to 'Dotcom branch' and click on. The first time you visit you have to decide, and register, your 'handle', and then you can join the meeting.



STAMPS STILL NEEDED

Tony Cock (S.E.Region Secretary) still needs used stamps, which we can convert into money for Toc H.

But, please note,

- He does not need definitives (i.e. the ordinary ones with the Queen's head on) as they are of no value. All others welcome - British or foreign.
- Please do NOT post them to him - as that can cost as much as he recovers on them! Please wait until you have a big pile and then get them to Tony via your Central Councillor, a member of staff, or via Central Services.
- Please do not tear them from the envelope, but cut them so as to leave between a quarter and half an inch all round, to protect the perforation - and please do NOT soak them off. Torn stamps, or stamps with no perforation, are of no value.

Thanks.

TRIBUTES

Frank Rice, who died in August, was editor of Point 3 from 1975 to 1984. He joined the staff of Toc H after retiring from the education branch of the R.A.F. (and also playing a significant role in the launch of the Open University). He worked briefly in his native North-West before moving to Wendover, where as well as editing Point 3 he was responsible for public relations. He was a member of the senior management team at Wendover, and attended meetings of the Central Executive, and it was in those bodies that he made his most important contributions. His quiet wisdom was deeply appreciated and always listened to with respect.

Frank was a renowned expert on the work of Charles Dickens and almost as knowledgeable on the life and work of G.K. Chesterton - there was something serendipitous about the fact that he lived in the village of Chesterton. I sometimes felt that there was something of Chesterton's detective, Father Brown, about Frank. Both were round, vigorous and jovial, with a great zest for life.

When Frank retired in 1985 he played a leading part in the University of the Third Age in Bicester and he continued for many years to return to Wendover to lead prayers at least once a month. He was a very special person who made a profound contribution to Toc H and to his colleagues. **KP-B**

Kenneth Badcock, who died in August aged 80, was a quiet, gentle and mild-mannered man, but a determined Toc H member. Ken, originally from Exeter, moved often during his working life in banking, so joined many branches, from Chard in the East to Calstock in the West. When Calstock closed, he joined Burraton Branch where he held office as chairman, and served a term as central councillor. He will be missed by many Toc H friends in the S.West region. **DE**

The passing of **Hugh Elliott** in June, at 86 and after much suffering, was a great loss to Cosham and Waterlooville Branch. Hugh had been an active member for over 64 years - mainly in the Portsmouth area, with his final ten years at Cosham and Waterlooville Branch. He always set a fine example of Christian living and was a loyal and active member of the local church. He will be sadly missed by members, friends and relatives. **HK**

Kenneth Knight, who died in August aged 71, was treasurer of Wakefield Branch for over 30 years, and a very staunch and loyal member since his early manhood. Even in the last few years of his illness he attended meetings. We shall miss him. **AS**

Jessie Wheelan, who died in September, had held office as Central Councillor for three terms at different times, as well as being a loyal member at local level. She also acted as Assistant secretary to Scotland Regional secretary, Isabella Baird, for many years. She was a very keen member, and she will be very much missed.

'Maysie' Johnson of Wallasey Branch died in September. The Branch has lost not only a faithful member, who was really dedicated to Toc H, but also a good and close friend. In the past she had held the post of secretary. She will be greatly missed by all the branch.

Much Wenlock Branch report, with sadness, the death of **Dorothy Faulkner**, in September. She was an ever willing member and, even though ageing, played her full part in the Branch's community service. She will be sorely missed by all her many friends. **CT**

Russell Sherriff was either chairman or secretary of Broughty Ferry Branch from its inception in 1952 to its closure in 1993. He was a staunch Toc H man, believing in its aims, and was the instigator of branch visits, with a concert party, to a local hospital. Russell served in the Parachute regiment in the 2nd World War. **FH**

OBITUARIES

In July

Margaret Brooks Kennington
Eric Sharpe Rushden

In August

Kenneth Badcock Wivelshire District
Ivy Birks Gorleston
Hilda Driver Gorleston
Kenneth Knight Wakefield
Herbert Oakes North East Region
'Frank' Rice South East Region
Russell Sherriff Strathclyde
Terence Simper Avon District
Eileen Ward Ilford & Seven Kings
Jessie Wheelan Levenmouth

In September

'Glynn' Davies Bognor Regis
Dorothy Faulkner Much Wenlock
Mary Gallacher Weymouth
Maurice Hall Broughton Astley
'Maysie' Johnson Wallasey

Not previously recorded

Harry Brinton Isle of Wight
Harry Heathcote Seaford

THINKING OF THE ETERNAL REALITIES - No.6

by **Padre Douglas Bridge-Collins**.

To some people it is helpful and right to set aside a definite time each day for meditation. To others that particular discipline is less helpful. It may be impractical because of the circumstances of their life such as shift work, irregular hours or unexpected demands on their time. Determination is necessary, however, if meditation is to become real, and develop. Many people have their off-days when prayer is less easy or when they feel less inclination to pursue prayer and meditation. In this connection we can recall the author who was asked about the art of successful writing and replied: 'The art of successful writing consists of the art of applying the seat of the pants to the seat of the chair'. Applying a similar principle to the practice of meditation implies that we give time to meditation every day, despite our varying health, mood or inclinations.

This is the final contribution from Douglas for the time being, and we are grateful to him for his thought-provoking messages.

Starting with the next (December) issue we are running a series entitled 'MY FAVOURITE PRAYER'. Readers are invited to send in their favourite prayer, with a small explanation (between 100 and 300 words), of WHY it is their favourite. We cannot promise to print them all, but we hope we shall get a good and varied response.

Just write to The Editor, Point 3, at Central Services.

NOTICE BOARD

ATTENTION: BRANCH, DISTRICT and REGIONAL TREASURERS

GIFT AID TAX RECOVERY

The Gift Aid tax claim will be made half-yearly at the end of December and June each year. Every branch, district and region will receive a form for



completion in December 2000. Please include all monies received at local level between 6th April and 31st December from members who have signed the Gift Aid form. Please then return it to Central Services as soon as possible. This will enable us to form an audit trail.

IMPORTANT. If you return a nil return in the first period you will need to request a form for any future periods, as we will only be sending the June 2001 forms to branches, districts and regions which **DID** record some Gift Aid donations at December 2000.

The details required on the form will be donor's name and total amount donated (including subs paid) in the 6 month period. Please remember you must have a signed Gift Aid form on record at your branch, district or region for Toc H to claim the tax back. This will also form part of the audit trail and for any future inspection by the Inland Revenue.

All signed Gift Aid forms **MUST** be kept in the hands of the treasurers and **NOT** sent to Central Services.

LASTLY - If donors cease to pay tax they must be deleted from your records for tax recovery.

TOC H WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT 2000

This year the World Chain of Light will begin at 9.00 p.m. on Monday 11th December at Toc H Lindridge, and the 24 hour vigil will be maintained there.

Any members/branches who would like to send a greeting should do so to:-

Toc H Lindridge,
Lindridge Hill,
Kingsteignton,
Newton Abbot,
Devon. TQ12 3 QE

Tel: 01626 - 365670

Email: mrowlands@eclipse.co.uk

If anyone would like to visit Lindridge during the vigil please advise of the anticipated time of your arrival and the length of your stay. Very limited, shared, bedroom accommodation could be available and your booking should be made before 31st October 2000, to:-

Mrs Mary Edwards,
23 Stonehouse Lane,
Combe Down,
Bath BA2 5DW

Tel: 01225 - 833093

For Sale



The Toc H S.E. Regional Minibus.

2.5 litre, diesel, 17 seater including driver.

5 years old - 1 year's MOT and taxed until March.

Tachograph, cassette radio, roofrack and coverall.

Access for 2 wheelchairs with quick release seats and ramp.

64,000 miles, regularly serviced.

Price £4,000 o.n.o.

Apply John Burgess, 66 Park Meadow, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5HB

Tel 01707-264949

Carol Service and Birthday Celebration LONDON 9th December

The S.E. Region is combining its usual Carol Service at All Hallows Church with a celebration of Toc H's 85th birthday. All welcome.

Members in the S.E. Region will be receiving more details (and application forms) in an insert with this issue. If members from any other parts of the country wish to attend, please apply to:- Tony Cock, (Regional Secretary), 7 Tournay Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent, CT21 4LL (Telephone: 01303 - 269407) for more details and an application form.

The programme is:

Lunch (cost £5) from 12-00 at the Ensign Club (home of the East London Family Project).

Lifts will be available from Tower Hill Tube Station from 11-30 a.m

Carol Service - 2.30 p.m

followed by Birthday Cake, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.